

# THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE



## An Introduction to the Committee and its Process

Public Information Session  
Docket No. 2019-02, Chinook Solar LLC  
January 15, 2020

# SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE STAFF AND WEBSITE

**Pamela Monroe, Administrator**

**[pamela.monroe@sec.nh.gov](mailto:pamela.monroe@sec.nh.gov)**

**[www.nhsec.nh.gov](http://www.nhsec.nh.gov)**

**(603) 271-2435**

# Purpose of RSA 162-H

- **Balance the benefits and impacts** of site selection on: the welfare of the population; private property; the location and growth of industry; the economic growth of the state; historic sites; aesthetics; air and water quality; natural resource; and public health and safety;
- **Avoid undue delay** in the construction of new facilities;
- Full and timely consideration of **environmental consequences**;
- Full and complete **public disclosure**; and
- Treated as a **significant aspect of land use planning**.

# Site Evaluation Committee

- Essentially serves as a statewide planning board for energy projects
- Designed to integrate the various permitting and regulatory processes, as well as economic and technical issues
- Pre-empts local authority and ordinances
- “One Stop” shopping for permitting

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RSA 162-H:3

**Dianne Martin, Chair**

**Robert R. Scott, Vice-Chair**

**Michael S. Giaimo**

**Kathryn M. Bailey**

**Victoria F. Sheehan**

**Taylor Caswell**

**Sarah L. Stewart**

**Susan V. Duprey**

**George I. Kassas**

**PUC Commissioner Chair**

**DES Commissioner**

**PUC Commissioner**

**PUC Commissioner**

**DOT Commissioner**

**DBEA Commissioner**

**DNCR Commissioner**

**Public Member**

**Public Member**

# Public Members

- **Susan V. Duprey**
  - **George I. Kassas**
  - **Robert A. Baines**
  - **Thomas R. Eaton**
  - **Lisa R. Noe**
- 
- **Public members for Subcommittees are selected via random draw. RSA 162-H:4-b, V**

**Chinook Solar Subcommittee Members**  
**RSA 162-H:4-a**

**Dianne Martin**

Presiding Officer  
Site Evaluation Committee Chair  
Public Utilities Commissioner and Chair

**Rene Pelletier**, Designee

Department of Environmental Services  
Assistant Director, Water Division

**William Oldenburg**, Designee

Department of Transportation  
Assistant Director of Project Development

**Wildolfo Arvelo**, Designee

Department of Business and Economic Affairs  
Director, Division of Economic Development

**Benjamin Wilson**

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
Director, Division of Historical Resources

**Susan Duprey**

Public Member

**Thomas Eaton**

Public Member

# COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC

RSA 162-H:9

- **Appointed by the Attorney General**
- **Represents the “public” in seeking to protect the quality of the environment and in seeking to assure an adequate supply of energy**
- **Can engage consultants and legal counsel and the applicant pays the cost**
- **Chinook Solar Docket: Assistant Attorney General, Heather Neville, 271-3679, [heather.Neville@doj.nh.gov](mailto:heather.Neville@doj.nh.gov)**

# Ex Parte Communications

RSA 541-A:36 and RSA 162-H:3, II

- All agency members, their designees, and public members of the Site Evaluation Committee **shall not** communicate directly or indirectly, with any person or party, in connection with any matter pending before the SEC.
- **All inquiries** related to the siting of energy facilities should be directed only to the **Administrator**.

# TIMELINE

## Event

## Timeframe

Pre-Application Public Information Session (in each county where the proposed facility will be located)

**July 18, 2019**

At least 30 days before filing an application

**(Application filed on October 18, 2019)**

Administrator forwards to agencies

**October 28, 2019** (Expediently)

Designation of a Subcommittee

**November 8, 2019** (Expediently)

Preliminary review by agencies

**November 27, 2019** (Expediently)

Subcommittee determines if the application is complete and accepts, if complete

**December 17, 2019**

(Within 60 days application filing)

Public Information Session (in each county where the proposed facility will be located)

**January 15, 2020**

(Within 45 days after acceptance)

# TIMELINE

## Event

## Timeframe

Joint Public Hearing (in each county where the proposed facility will be located) with other agencies  
(Subcommittee attends)

**February 20, 2020**  
(Within 90 days after acceptance)

Agency preliminary reports with draft conditions

**May 15, 2020**  
(Within 150 days after acceptance)

Agency final decisions

**August 13, 2020**  
(Within 240 days after acceptance)

Adjudicative proceedings

**No earlier than August 13, 2020**  
(After agency final decisions)

Decision Granting or Denying Certificate

**December 16, 2020**  
(Within 365 days after acceptance)

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Pre-Filing Public Information Session-No SEC involvement;**
- **Post-Acceptance Public Information Session-Administrator and Applicant;**
- **Post-Acceptance Public Hearing-Subcommittee;**
- **Written Public Comments are accepted throughout the proceeding and are reviewed by the Subcommittee and posted on the SEC website;**
- **Additional Public Statement Hearings may be held during the adjudicative phase; and**
- **Petitions to intervene in the adjudicative process (due January 17, 2020).**

# CRITERIA and FINDINGS

RSA 162-H:16, IV

In order to issue a certificate, the committee must find that:

- The applicant has **adequate financial, technical, and managerial capability.**
- The site and facility will not unduly interfere with the **orderly development** of the region;
  - Due consideration given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies.

# CRITERIA and FINDINGS

RSA 162-H:16, IV

- The site and facility will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on:
  - **Aesthetics;**
  - **Historic Sites;**
  - **Air and Water Quality;**
  - **The Natural Environment; and**
  - **Public Health and Safety.**
- Issuance of a certificate will serve the **public interest.**

# CONTACT INFORMATION AND WEBSITE

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